

EXHIBIT 6

In the Matter of:

United States

vs

Gutfahr

Reporter's Transcript of Recorded Interviews

January 21, 2025



GRIFFIN GROUP
INTERNATIONAL

3200 East Camelback Road, Suite 177
Phoenix, Arizona 85018

United States vs
Gutfahr

Reporter's Transcript of Recorded Interviews

In re:)	
)	Case No.
United States v. Elizabeth)	24-CR-08132-RM
Gutfahr.)	
)	

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED INTERVIEW

INTERVIEW OF: Daniel Erickson
Heidi Gonzalez

INTERVIEW BY: AUSA Jane Westby
AUSA Nicholas W. Cannon
S.A. Shannon Gonzalez

INTERVIEW DATE: January 21, 2025

PREPARED BY:
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(Certified Copy)



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1 (Audio begins.)

2 S.A. GONZALEZ: Good morning. Today is
3 January 21st. We are here with a recorded voluntary
4 interview with Daniel Erickson, Superintendent in Sonoita;
5 also present, Jane Westby, AUSA, Nick Cannon, and myself,
6 Shannon Gonzalez with the FBI.

7 And did I get your title right,
8 Mr. Erickson, Superintendent; correct?

9 MR. ERICKSON: Yeah.

10 S.A. GONZALEZ: Okay.

11 MR. ERICKSON: Superintendent, yes.

12 S.A. GONZALEZ: Okay. Wonderful. Okay.
13 We -- we are recording. So take it away.

14 MS. WESTBY: -Okay. So our goal today is to
15 try to see if and to what extent your group has been
16 affected by the thefts of Ms. Gutfahr. And I'm assuming
17 you're familiar with that -- with that case?

18 MR. ERICKSON: Yes.

19 MS. WESTBY: Okay. And so our records show
20 that the -- the treasurer's office, they maintained some
21 of your funds for the use by -- hang on. Let me get this
22 right. It's -- this would be Sonoita 25; right, sir?

23 MR. ERICKSON: Yeah. Sonoita Elementary
24 School District Number 25, yes.

25 MS. WESTBY: Okay. So the information we



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1 MR. ERICKSON: Yeah. And if you need --

2 MS. WESTBY: Yeah. That's --

3 MR. ERICKSON: -- their contact information,
4 let me know.

5 MS. WESTBY: Sure. If you have a phone
6 number handy, that's great. I'll just call them. I'll
7 just call them after we -- we chat.

8 MR. ERICKSON: Okay.

9 MS. WESTBY: Okay. So you think at this
10 point -- going back to the \$516,000, you think that might
11 be approximate to the chargeback amount. And -- and then
12 is there someone separate that does your accounting to
13 charge this back to the Sonoita?

14 MR. ERICKSON: Well, we work through the
15 county treasurer, through -- and my business manager does
16 all of that accounting. So she might --

17 MS. WESTBY: Okay.

18 MR. ERICKSON: -- be a better person to talk
19 to about like the -- the specifics of how that works.

20 MS. WESTBY: Right. And that was my next
21 question. And what is her name?

22 MR. ERICKSON: Heidi Gonzalez. If you want,
23 I mean, she's right next door. I could bring her in on
24 this phone call.

25 MS. WESTBY: Yeah. I think -- I think



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1 your ability to make future payments with -- does that
2 come out of your future budget then? Is that how it
3 works?

4 HEIDI GONZALEZ: It would come -- as far as
5 I have been told, it will be coming out of our cash. So
6 it will affect our cash balances that we're currently
7 carrying. Once we get those numbers and those are
8 adjusted, then they would be -- you know, then that --
9 those -- those funds would no longer be available to us
10 because we then --

11 MS. WESTBY: Okay.

12 HEIDI GONZALEZ: -- reconciled the false --
13 falsified reports. Okay. I am working, you know, pretty
14 hard to prevent it from affecting us next year and keeping
15 enough cash in the account to where that wouldn't drain
16 our account, and we would still have income coming in
17 through the state through ADE, but it's -- it's really
18 hard to say right now --

19 MS. WESTBY: Right.

20 HEIDI GONZALEZ: -- until I get those final
21 figures from them. But I -- you know, I had been told
22 that that we were possibly looking at getting about
23 162,000 back. So, you know, it wouldn't -- we would be
24 cutting that hole 500,000, but --

25 MS. WESTBY: And where -- where was the



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1 MS. WESTBY: Right.

2 MR. ERICKSON: -- that extra half a million,
3 we could do really cool things here for our kids.

4 MS. WESTBY: What kind of things could you
5 do?

6 MR. ERICKSON: Well, one thing that we're
7 looking to do is replace the 25-year-old building that was
8 meant as a temporary structure and put in a brand-new
9 science -- you know, state of the -- state-of-the-art
10 science lab for our middle school.

11 MS. WESTBY: Uh-huh.

12 HEIDI GONZALEZ: Yeah. That would fund the
13 whole thing almost.

14 MR. ERICKSON: Yeah.

15 MS. WESTBY: Really?

16 MR. CANNON: All right. Can I -- yeah. Can
17 I dig in on that?

18 MS. WESTBY: Yeah.

19 MR. CANNON: How long has this been
20 something that you guys wanted to pursue for your middle
21 schoolers?

22 MR. ERICKSON: Well, I've only been here
23 since July 1. So, for me, I can only say like 6 and a
24 half months, just because I'm the new superintendent.
25 But, that building, although it's in good enough shape to



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1 HEIDI GONZALEZ: Well, I mean, not really.
2 I know that that building has been off and on throughout
3 multiple superintendents. And I am speaking as a parent
4 now.

5 MR. CANNON: Yeah.

6 HEIDI GONZALEZ: I'm stepping out of
7 business manager and employee, but I know that there had
8 been talk when my kids were going to school here about
9 getting -- you know, updating the building. We also, you
10 know, I mean, part of the thing is too is going through
11 the state -- the school facilities board, we try and get
12 state funding for big capital projects like that as often
13 as possible. And up until probably the last two to three
14 years, you know, they -- they kept saying that they didn't
15 have the funds for our project because we're rural
16 schools. And I think that people have been working on
17 that on that department getting them more out to rural
18 schools. And we've had more money come through the state
19 through that department since then. But, I mean, the
20 building is -- is at least five years past its lifespan.
21 And it -- it had been -- it just becomes on the
22 superintendent. You know what I mean?

23 So it was not a huge topic of conversation
24 with my last superintendent prior to Dan here. Before
25 that, it was a topic of conversation. So it's --



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1 MS. WESTBY: Uh-huh.

2 HEIDI GONZALEZ: -- it's really hard for me
3 to give you that information, because if it's not written
4 down, if it's not been budgeted, there's not been reports
5 put in to start a project, I really don't have anything to
6 go off of.

7 MR. ERICKSON: Yeah. And that's the other
8 part is we have not gone anything past the discussion
9 phase. Like, I don't have numbers or anything like that
10 that I could share with you. But I can tell you that no
11 matter what the project is, a half million dollars in a
12 district of only a \$2 million budget is a significant
13 increase that we could use to do all kinds of things, like
14 rightsize teacher salaries--so we're more competitive
15 across the state, to recruit teachers, to implement
16 curriculum, to buy new desks, to -- to do whatever it is
17 that, you know, school districts can do with that kind of
18 money, that's a big chunk of money for a really small
19 district.

20 Another project that I've kicked around and
21 look for grant funding for is to redo the turf on -- on
22 the -- in our athletic fields, because it's just grass and
23 there's divots, and it's -- it's an ankle-braking kind of
24 field if you try to maneuver down the field, to put in a
25 turf field out here so the kids have a safe place to play



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